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Richard Nugent, Editor]

THE WHOLE ART OF GOVERNMENT CONSISTS IN THE ART OF BEING HONEST.—Jefferson.

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POETRY.

The Snow-bird.

From distant climes, which none can tell,
In dress of bright and changeable hue,
I greet the bird beloved so well,
When childhood's hours around me flew.

Sure, though the northern storms may spend
Their fury over field and tree,
Their blasts are welcome, if they send
So gay a visitant as thee.

I care not that the laughing Spring
Its blue-bird messenger may own;
If winter be but sure to bring
The Snow-bird I have always known.

How oft, in childhood's rainbow hours,
I've watch'd thee at the window pane;
Hiding thee from the ruthless showers,
Till vernal airs shall breathe again!

Oh! how my youthful eyes would strain,
Pursuing in my wayward track!
How oft I've spread the attractive grain
To bring thy wandering pinions back!

Yes, gentle bird! I mind the time
Thou'st sported round my window-seat,
(Thoughtless of evil, as of crime,) Pleased, it would seem, my face to greet,—

And feeding with confiding stay,
On tiny crumbs I threw to thee:—
'Twere base, 'twere cruel, to betray
A bird that ne'er had injured me:

There breathes an everlasting Power,
Unknown, but felt—unseen, but heard;
He clothes each tree, he tints each flower,
His arm protects my darling bird.

Let winter come with stormy voice;
Let snow-wreaths crown the highest hill;
He bids thee in the storm rejoice,
He sees, protects, and feeds the still.

FOR THE JEFFERSONIAN REPUBLICAN.

Mr. Editor:—

I send you for publication, some historical notes on the early settlement of Monroe and Northampton counties, which I have extracted from various works and ancient records and may be interesting to some of your readers, though very imperfect. A SUBSCRIBER.

When William Penn first visited his newly purchased territory in 1682, he found the greater portion occupied by that race of Indians called by the whites, Delawares, and by themselves, Lenni Lennape, or the original people, who had settled themselves on the four great rivers, Hudson, Delaware, Susquehanna and Potomac, making the Delaware the centre of their possessions. They were divided into three principal tribes; the Unamis or Turtle and the Unalachtgo or Turkey inhabited the country towards the sea-coast. The Wolf or Minsi called by the English the Monseys, were the most warlike of the three tribes and held their council seat at the Minisinks, which at that period included the country between the Delaware Water Gap and Carpenters Point, though the term is now confined to a township in Orange co. N. Y., bordering on the Delaware. They extended themselves to the Hudson on the East, to the Susquehanna on the South West, to the head waters of the Delaware and Susquehanna on the North and to that range of mountains now known by the name of Lehigh hills on the South—thus forming a barrier between their tribe and the great and powerful Six Nations, who inhabited the present State of New York. Many subordinate tribes proceeded from these who received names generally from their places of residence, as the Ne-shaminies, the Shackamaxins, and the Fork Indians who resided near the confluence of the Lehigh and Delaware. For many years a bloody war prevailed between the Delawares & the Six Nations which terminated in a most extraordinary manner, and the details are given be-

cause of their subsequent effect on the interests of our Indian relations. According to the story of the Delawares, they were always too powerful for their enemies—so that the latter were at length convinced if the war should continue, their total ruin would be inevitable—they therefore became desirous of reconciliation and resorted to stratagem to effect the downfall of the Delawares. The mediators between the Indian nations at war, are the women. The men however weary of the contest hold it disgraceful and cowardly for a warrior with bloody weapons in his hands to speak of peace. The following message was therefore sent by the Six Nations. "It is not profitable that all the nations should be at war with each other, for this will at length be the ruin of the whole Indian race. We have therefore considered of a remedy for this evil. One nation shall be the woman. We will place her in the midst, and the other nations who make war, shall be the men and live around the woman.—No one shall touch or hurt the woman, and if any one does it we will immediately say to him, "Why do you beat the woman?" then all the men shall fall on him who beat the woman. The woman shall not go to war but endeavour to keep peace with all, therefore if the men that surround her, beat each other and the war be carried on with violence, the woman shall have the right of addressing them. "Ye men, what are you about? Why do ye beat each other? Consider, that your wives and children must perish, unless ye desist," the men shall then hear and obey the woman." The message went on to say that the function of the peace-maker was honorable and dignified—and could not be given to a weak and contemptible tribe—such would not be listened to, but the Lennape would at once possess influence and command respect.

The Delawares add, that not immediately perceiving the intention of the Six Nations they had consented to become the woman. A great feast was then appointed and a solemn speech made containing three capital points. First, that they declare the Delawares to be the woman. Second, that they look to them for the preservation of peace, and Third, by which they were exhorted to make the cultivation of the earth, their future employment and means of subsistence.

Ever since this singular treaty, the Delawares were styled *Cousins* by their crafty opponents. It took place at Albany in 1617, in the presence of the Dutch whom the Lennape charge with having conspired with the Six Nations for their destruction. Having thus disarmed the Delawares, the Six Nations assumed over them, the rights of protection and command. But still dreading their strength they contrived to involve them in a war with the Cherokees, and treacherously led them into an ambush of their foes, and then deserted them.

The Delawares at length when too late, perceived the aim of their pretended friends, and being still superior in numbers, resolved to resume their arms, and crush them. The Europeans, however, were now making their settlements in their country in every direction, and gave the discomfited tribe, full employment. On the contrary the Six Nations assert, that they conquered the Delawares by force of arms and forced them to adopt the defenceless state of a woman, to avoid total ruin, and though it be said they are unable to give the details of this conquest, it is more reasonable to suppose it true, than that a brave, numerous and warlike nation should have voluntarily suffered themselves to be disarmed and enslaved by a shallow artifice or that discovering the fraud practised upon them, they should without resistance have submitted to it. Be this however as it may, the advantage henceforward was on the side of the Six Nations—they claimed dominion over all the lands occupied by the Delawares, and in many instances their claims were distinctly acknowledged—their parties occasionally took possession of the Lennape country, and wandered over it, at all times at their pleasure.

About 1698, the Shawnees, who lived in Florida, and had carried on long wars with the Seminole tribe, were reduced to a very small number, moved to Pennsylvania, and at their solicitation, were kindly received by the Delawares—they obtained permission to live upon their lands, and were called *Nephews*. Their settlements were on the Ohio, the Susquehanna and the Delaware—the principal of which was in this neighborhood in Smithfield township—an island in the river Delaware, belonging to George Bush and others being still called Shawnee Island. All writers unite in the opinion, that they were the most turbulent, perfidious, and cruel of all the Indian tribes, and in our frequent wars it is certain, they were the first to take up, and the last to lay down their arms.

No correct estimate can be formed of the number of Indians inhabiting the territory composing the present State of Pennsylvania at the time when first settled by the whites but it is supposed they amounted to 30,000, that is probably much too great.

It was the earnest desire of William Penn to extinguish every kind of title and claim to the lands necessary for the accommodation of

his colony and to live on terms of friendship with the natives. The strict justice with which he constantly treated them enabled him to acquire a strong ascendancy over them—nor did they ever, through successive generations, until their final disappearance from our soil ever forget the feelings of gratitude inspired by his character and conduct—to this fact it is owing, that ours is almost the only State in the union, whose annals are not disfigured by constant wars with the Indians. As long as the influence of his illustrious example was maintained in our negotiations with them, peace and quiet prevailed within our borders, and it was only when the white settlers, in violation of treaties, encroached on their hunting grounds, for which no redress could be obtained, that they were induced to become our enemies and make war upon us.

The charter of Pennsylvania was granted by King Charles II on the 4th March 1681, and in pursuance of his benevolent policy William Penn shortly after his arrival here, met the Indians in council, and concluded several treaties. His early purchases were of lands in the immediate vicinity of Philadelphia, from the Delaware tribes who were the residents—and numerous deeds of these tracts are still existing in the public offices. August 20, 1686 a deed is said to have been made for the celebrated *walking purchase*, which occasioned much controversy and dissatisfaction among the Indians;—it is however included in the deed of 1737, which will be hereafter mentioned. It is certain no such original deed was in existence at the treaty of Easton, in 1757, and it is with good reason denied to have ever existed. In 1696, through the Governor of New York, the Proprietary obtained a deed of cession for all lands lying "on both sides of the river Susquehanna and the lakes adjacent, in or near the province of Pennsylvania" from the Six Nations, who as before related, claimed rights to the lands by conquest over the Delawares—the purchase did not include any extent of land which was left indefinite.

The foresight of Penn induced him to obtain this grant, of the whole Susquehanna country, though it was not designed for immediate settlement, in order to secure it from the pretensions of the neighbouring colonists, the boundaries of his colony being as yet unknown. Notwithstanding this purchase from the Six Nations, the rights of the Delawares who were the real possessors of the soil were always acknowledged, and treaties made with them, as the settlement were advanced towards the interior. The early Indian deeds are vague and undefined as to their boundaries and the stations cannot be precisely ascertained at this day, these circumstances are however of no importance to us at present, as they were not given for lands embraced within "Old Northampton"—it may be observed, that the Indians regarded their treaties with fidelity, and the boundaries appear to have been always accurately understood by them. On the 17th September 1717, there is a deed of release from sundry Delaware chiefs, Sassoonan and others for "all the lands situate between the Delaware and Susquehanna from Duck creek, to the mountains on this side of the Lehigh" with an acknowledgment, that they had seen and heard *divers deeds of sale* read unto them, under the hands and seals of former chiefs, their ancestors, by which they had granted the said lands to Wm. Penn, for which they were content, which for a further consideration of goods delivered to them, they then confirmed. It is to be observed that the Northern boundary of this deed is expressly limited to the Lehigh hills, and that no allusion is made to the day and a half's walk said to be in the *alleged* deed of 1686—a small portion of "Old Northampton" is included in the above purchase, and is therefore to be noted. In spite of these defined limits, the settlers encroached on the Indian lands beyond them, which occasioned great anxiety and uneasiness among the Delawares—the complaints of the aged Sassoonan were eloquent and pathetic. Preparations were made for war but by prudence and skill, the danger was turned aside. This was in 1728 and the wrongs were partly committed in this neighborhood—in his last will William Penn had bequeathed to his grandson bearing the same name, 10,000 acres of land to be set out in proper and beneficial places in the province by his Trustees. These 10,000 acres William Allen, an eminent citizen of Philadelphia (who was afterwards Chief Justice of the Province) and a great dealer in lands, purchased, and by virtue of warrant or order of the Trustees to Jacob Taylor, the Surveyor General, to survey the said 10,000 acres, he had part of that land laid out in the Minisinks, immediately above the Blue Mountains, because it was good land, though it was not yet purchased of the Indians. The warrant is dated —and the lands taken up, were exclusively on the river bottoms—commencing about Cherry Creek, and extending many miles up the river.

Had he contented himself with securing the right to himself, and suffered the lands to remain in possession of the Indians, till it had been duly purchased of them and paid for, no ill consequences could have ensued; but (probably supposing the matter might easily have been accommodated with them, in some future treaty) no sooner had he the land surveyed to him than he began to sell it to those who would immediately settle it. A short time previous when some persons wished to take up lands in the Minisinks, James Logan the Secretary of the Land office wrote to the Surveyor of Bucks county to prevent it. This appears from the annexed copy of a letter dated

PHILADELPHIA, November 20, 1727.

"Friend Thos. Watson:—

This morning I wrote to thee by Jacob Taylor concerning warrants that may be offered thee to be laid out on the Minisink lands, and was then of the opinion, that the bearer hereof, Joseph Wheeler, proposed to lay his, there.—Having since seen him, he tells me he has no such thought, but would have it laid three or four miles above Durnam, on a spot of pretty good land amongst the hills, and, I think, at some distance from the river, proposing as he says, to live there himself, with his kinsman, who was here, with him. Pray take the first opportunity to mention it to J. Langhorne; for, if he has no considerable objection to it (that is, if he has laid no right on it) I cannot see that we should make any other than that it is not purchased of the Indians, which is so material a one, that, without their previous engagement to part with it very reasonably, it cannot be surveyed.

This is what offers on this head from thy loving friend,

JAMES LOGAN."

Here it is stated on the best authority that the whites had no right beyond the Lehigh hills. Bucks county then included all the country in the Eastern and N. E. parts of the province and J. Langhorne was one of the principal Magistrates. Where Joseph Wheeler settled at that time, I do not know, but I find among the petitions for a road in Smithfield township not many years after, his name at the head,—it is not improbable, therefore, that he did not regard the prohibition of the Proprietaries offices—many others must have followed Wheeler's example, for the discontent of the Indians continued to increase and it became necessary on the part of the Governor Thomas Penn, Son of the great founder, to compose their clamors. After several ineffectual attempts, he is said to have complained of them, to the Six Nations. In 1736, Deputies from that tribe arrived at Philadelphia, and a treaty was held with them, at which Conrad Weiser a German settled in Tulpehocken, acted as interpreter.

Presents having been liberally bestowed on them, they made deeds confirming the deed of 1696 obtained as before related by Wm. Penn, through Gov. Dongan, for lands on both sides of Susquehanna.

These were signed by 23 chiefs—and it is remarkable that 11 of them on their return, staid several days with Conrad Weiser at his residence and there executed a piece of writing, declaring that "their intention and meaning, by the former deed, was to release all their pretensions to all the lands lying within the limits of Pennsylvania, beginning Eastward on the river Delaware as far Northward as the ridge of Kittittany or endless mountains, as they cross the country from the Eastward to the West." With respect to this writing, it is to be observed that, as the Six Nations claimed no right, to the lands on Delaware in the deed of 1696, they could by the above instrument convey none. It is said that it was not signed until after great persuasions on the part of the agent of the Proprietaries, and the express admission of the chiefs, that they had nothing to do with these lands, and that they were afraid they should do something amiss to their *cousins* the Delawares. However, this fact may have been, we find about eighteen months afterwards, the Proprietaries procured a release from some Delaware chiefs, for at least a part of these lands, or a confirmation of the *supposed* deed of 1686, usually styled the *walking purchase*. This singular release we give at length—but before doing so, we must add that to increase the wrongs of the Indians, Thos. Penn, issued in 1735, proposals for a Lottery of 100,000 acres of land, which those who drew prizes, were by the 5th article, allowed to "lay out any where within the Province, except on lands already taken up, provided nevertheless, that such persons who are settled on lands without warrants for the same, and may be entitled to prizes, either by becoming adventures themselves, or by purchasing prize tickets, may have liberty to lay their rights on the lands where they are so seated." So that there was no exception of lands unpurchased of the Indians, but rather an express provision for those who had unjustly seated themselves there. Again, in the last article, "it is further agreed, that whereas several of the adventurers may be unacquainted with proper places whereon to locate the prizes, they will be entitled to, several tracts of the best vacant lands shall be laid out and divided into lots for all prizes not less than 200 acres."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR PORTER.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

FELLOW CITIZENS—Among the various duties enjoined by the Constitution on the Executive Magistrate, none is more important and more frequently perplexing than that of "giving to the General Assembly information of the state of the Commonwealth, and recommending to their consideration such measures as he should deem expedient." On this occasion, I am happily relieved from much of the anxiety and embarrassment attendant upon the discharge of this duty by referring your attention to the annual message which I had the honor to transmit to the Legislature on the 8th day of January last. In that message, I felt it to be my imperative duty to enter into a full and elaborate exposition of my views on several deeply interesting subjects connected with the public welfare, and especially on the subjects of the internal improvements of the Commonwealth, the public debt, and the reformation of the banking system. In regard to these leading questions of vital interest, and the numerous subordinate matters intimately associated and blended with them, I can add very little to the opinions I expressed, and the recommendations I made in the message to which I have just referred you. The experience of the past year has not only confirmed, but strengthened my conviction of the justice and propriety of those opinions and recommendations; the people at large, with unexampled unanimity, have approved them; and I earnestly invite your careful deliberation, as I did that of the last Legislature, upon those portions of the message to which you will find convenient access upon your journals. So far as respects the reform of the banking system, I perceive no necessity for changing or modifying, in any essential particular, the recommendations therein contained; and I now here respectfully, but earnestly, recommend the adoption of the recommendations I then made on this subject, and trust that the present Legislature will not separate, until they shall have made a searching and thorough reform of the imperfections and manifold abuses of the present system. To me it has been a subject of deep regret, that my recommendations on that subject did not meet the approbation of the last Legislature, persuaded as I am, that the most beneficial influence would have resulted from their adoption. It is not, however, too late to apply the remedy still; and I again recommend, with anxious earnestness, those measures for reforming the abuses of the banking system to your early attention.

The resumption of specie payments on the part of the banks, which constituted a year ago such a formidable portion of the difficulty in the way of efficient legislation, is about to be consummated without your active interference at all. Under the resolution passed on the 3d day of April last, those institutions are required on and after the 15th day of January inst. to pay on demand all their notes, bills, deposits, and other liabilities, in gold or silver coin, on penalty of the forfeiture of their charters, upon certain conditions set forth in said resolution. It affords me great pleasure to state, that although the day fixed for the resumption was more remote than I wished at the time, yet the period of indulgence has nearly passed away, & there is now good ground to believe that the banks of this Commonwealth will, as they are required to do, be prepared again to discharge their liabilities in specie. Should they do so, by continuing strictly to observe the law, and by fulfilling the just expectations of the public, they may regain the confidence which they have hitherto lost, and more particularly may they do this, if proper measures be adopted for the better regulation and control of their operations. One of the most immediate advantages resulting to the community, from the resumption of specie payments, will be the entire expulsion from circulation of the illegitimate brood of small notes that have been poured in upon us, from the neighboring states on all sides, in defiance of law, and of the most active endeavors to suppress them. I cannot, however, conclude this part of my subject, without recommending that no increase of our banking capital be made under any circumstances, and that effectual provision be made by law, that if any bank shall at any time hereafter, suspend specie payments, it shall be *ipso facto* a forfeiture of its charter. Nothing short of an absolute and unconditional provision of this kind, can arrest the frequent over issues by the banks, induced by the inordinate cupidity of those under whose directions they may be conducted. Let the great principle be distinctly announced, as the foundation on which our banking institutions rest, that hereafter, there are to be no more suspensions of specie payments in Pennsylvania.

The condition of the public improvements during the past year, has been attended to by the officers entrusted with their management, with untiring assiduity. They are in a much better state of repair than they ever have been since their construction, and but little delay or interruption in business has occurred. The